

Appl. No. 10/623,240
Amdt. dated February 6, 2006

REMARKS

General

Pending in this patent application are Claims 1, 3-20 and 21-22. Claim 1 was previously presented, Claim 16 has been amended to substantially include the limitations of Claim 1, Claim 2 was cancelled without prejudice, and Claims 21 and 22 new.

Substance of the Interview

On January 31, 2006 an interview was held between TTom Gellenthien and Examiner Duc Nguyen. Claims 1 and 16 were discussed with reference to the cited prior art of Clermont, Brockman, and Spangler. Examiner Nguyen indicated that the current claimed language of claim 1 would overcome the prior art of record and that no agreement was reached on claim 16. Applicants thank the Examiner for his time and thoughts during the interview.

Specification

In the specification, a number of paragraphs were previously amended in an amendment filed on 08/18/2005 to correct minor issues relating to reference numerals. For example, reference numerals were previously amended to properly denote a line (24) and an apparatus (32) of the present invention.

Claims

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 3-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Clermont et al (5,828,729) in view of Brockman et al (5,592,530) or Spangler et al (6,327,350).

Claim 1

Claim 1 was previously amended to advantageously include, among other elements, a mass call event detector and a notifier, wherein the mass call event detector and the notifier are a *nominated one of a plurality* of mass call event detectors *and*

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notifiers, and wherein the one nominated mass call event detector detects the occurrence of the mass call event and the one nominated notifier provides a notification of the occurrence received by each of the network elements. In such a manner, a nominated one of many application processors, which each contain a mass call event detector and a notifier, advantageously detects the occurrence of the mass call event and provides a notification of the occurrence received by each of the network elements. Support for this limitation can be found at least in the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 15 of the pending patent application.

Previously presented claim 1 was deemed to overcome the prior art of record.

Claim 16

During the interview, no agreement was reached on claim 16. The previous limitation "permitting a provisioned number of calls associated with the mass call event to be processed" was deleted and the limitation of claim 1, "wherein the mass call event detector and the notifier are a nominated one of a plurality of mass call event detectors and notifiers, and wherein the one nominated mass call event detector detects the occurrence of the mass call event and the one nominated notifier provides a notification of the occurrence received by each of the network elements" was added, albeit in a slightly different format. Further, the actions performed by the mass call event detector and the notifier were specified.

Claim 21

New claim 21 is substantially equivalent in structure to previously presented claim 1 (which the Examiner indicated would overcome the prior art of record) with the exception that the limitation, "at least one of" was added to the following element, "wherein the mass call event detector and the notifier are at least one of a nominated one of a plurality of mass call event detectors and notifiers..." No new matter has been added and support for such a limitation can be found at least on pages 10-12.

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~~Claim 22~~

New claim 21 is substantially equivalent in structure to currently amended claim 16 with the exception that the limitation, "at least one of" was added to the following element, "wherein the mass call event detector and the notifier are at least one of a nominated one of a plurality of mass call event detectors and notifiers..." No new matter has been added and support for such a limitation can be found at least on pages 10-12.

Fees

A payment of \$500 is submitted herewith via the indicated deposit account and covers two additional claims over 20 (\$100) as well as two additional independent claims (\$400) for a large entity.

Conclusion

Per the aforementioned remarks, Applicants believe previously presented Claim 1 and currently amended Claim 16 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request they be passed to allowance. Since Claims 3-15 depend on currently amended Claim 1 which Applicants believe is in condition for allowance, and since Claims 17-20 depend on currently amended Claim 16 which Applicants believe is in condition for allowance, Applicants believe dependent Claims 3-15 and 17-20 are in condition for allowance. Further, since Claim 21 is substantially equivalent to Claim 1, and since Claim 22 is substantially equivalent to Claim 16, Applicants believe Claims 21 and 22 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests it be passed to allowance. A Notice of Allowance of the present patent application is therefore respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any other matters which pertain to this Application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve these matters by Examiner's Amendment where possible.

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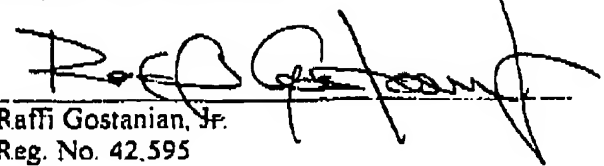
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Respectfully Submitted.


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2/6/06

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